

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

My name is Cliff Milliken and I am writing to you regarding your consideration of dropping the requirement that the telephone companies be required to provide ISPs access to (their networks). Removal of this requirement would be a grave mistake.

I depend on my local Internet Service Provider to give me access to Internet services and options not available from the large telephone carriers. If you choose to remove my ISPs access to the Cincinnati Bell telephone network, they will no longer be able to provide others and me the level of service we have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access. Such action will simply force the independent ISPs out of business and will do nothing but LIMIT consumer choice. This action will certainly not expand it.

I have purchased service from my ISP, Iglou, for 10 years. It has been a key part of my business as a Microsoft and UNIX consultant and trainer. Frankly, I discontinued service from AT&T, MST, AOL (then CompuServe), and my local telephone company monopoly simply because they didn't have a clue about service.

Furthermore, by removing the requirement and reducing our choice, you will likely also allow consumer rates to rise. By having a current choice among several providers to choose from, I am not only allowed to find the best services to suit my needs, but also for the best price. Reducing the number of ISPs in the marketplace will certainly have the obvious result of reduced competition, well-documented lousy service, and increased prices for consumers in the long run.

I sincerely hope that you think very carefully what you are considering. Consumers all across America are depending on you to make the right decision. The right decision is to maintain and grow the level of competition in the Internet marketplace. That goal is best met by protecting and nurturing competitive market conditions for the thousands of independent ISPs. Competition is certainly not increased through their destruction.

Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs access to the public telephone networks and thereby protect the rights of millions of consumers and small business people like me.

Sincerely,

Cliff Milliken
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Cincinnati, OH 45241